

City of Edmonton
Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
Minutes
Monday July 10th, 2023
Hybrid Meeting
5:00 - 7:00 pm

In Attendance: T.LaRiviere, Z.Weeks, D.Akanpentiba-Achura, B.Belsek, C.Brenneis, D.Antaya-Moore, M.Dancsok, C.Decore, D.Rudolph, I. Stephaniuk-Gaudet, P.Kocom, M. Vautour, S. Mason, K. Ewig
Council Sponsors: Clr. Tang, Clr. Wright
Guest: D. O'Donoghue & E. Black
Regrets: N/A

Staff: A.Szafranski, H. Craig

Call to order at 5:05pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: I. Stephaniuk-Gaudet

To approve the agenda as presented.

Carried U

2. AAC June Minutes

June Minutes currently unavailable. Tabled.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Presented by Z. Weeks

5. New Business

- Affordable Housing Presentation
 - Guest - D. O'Donoghue & Erin Black

[The State of Housing and Homelessness in Edmonton](#)

General discussion:

- AAC members inquired about the accessibility standards that were used for the 18% accessible units in the new permanent supportive housing developments. The current Alberta Building Code (at the time the units were built) and the [Access Design Guide](#) were used.
- Discussed considerations for intersections with youth. Youth with disabilities will be included in the next update in the 2021 census.
- Funding for encampments does include the costs of police officers.
- There are 1,803 units owned by the City, with 851 units managed by HomeEd and 951 units managed by Civida.
- AAC felt that 100% of the permanent supportive housing sites should include the three features of [visitable housing](#).
- The City of Edmonton has connected with many individuals with lived experience through various projects, and aims to incorporate their perspectives wherever

possible.

- The discussion included ways the AAC can support the work of the housing section.
 - Role in advocacy. Advocate to increase accessibility in standards (i.e. 10% minimum for accessible units. The PSH funding is a government program and at the time of the build, the recommendation was for 10% of units as that was the local requirement. If that changes for future new builds, and if Edmonton is awarded any, they will follow whatever standards the government has for barrier free units. The National Housing Strategy establishes 20% accessibility targets).
 - Educate on what visitability means.
 - Participating in engagement opportunities
 - Communicating with City Council.
 - Suggestion to adopt the CSA/ASC B652:23 accessible dwellings standard moving forward
 - Lack of data around the costs of building 100% accessible units. Need 1-2 developers to jump on board and lead the way and show that it is doable.
 - Discussed the potential opportunity for council to speak to developers about accessible housing when they meet before public hearings.

6. Council Updates

a. Clr. Wright

- i. There was an update to Council last week on transit safety.
- ii. Council also received an update on missing and enhanced sidewalk connections. The locations for improvements in 2023 have been decided, but there may be opportunity to provide feedback for 2024 funding.
[Map of Missing Sidewalk links](#)
- iii. An [Assisted Snow Programs Council Report](#) is being presented to Community and Public Service Committee tomorrow, July 11. Feedback was collected to share at Committee. Concerns shared that in addition to people with disabilities needing support with snow shoveling, there are also problems with the general public not clearing their sidewalks. There was a discussion that education only goes so far and that people might respond better to fines. Discussed Insurance and liability concerns of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.

b. Clr. Tang

- i. Flagged that the snow report leaned heavily toward the senior demographic and had a gap in terms of addressing accessibility for people with disabilities. Discussed the lack of best practices for snow removal for the disability community.
- ii. National Urban Parks discussion might be of interest to the AAC as one of their goals is to improve accessibility and opportunity for Edmontonians to access the river valley.
- iii. Last week of council meetings before going into recess for four weeks.

7. Chair Update

- The director of complaints and investigations in Community Services reached out to the AAC to gather their feedback on the [Assisted Snow Programs Council Report](#).
 - The following topics were included in the report:

- 1. Previous assisted snow removal programs provided by the City of Edmonton;
 - 2. Current assisted snow removal programs or initiatives underway;
 - 3. Jurisdictional scan of assisted snow removal programs across Canada, including looking at the current program implemented by Calgary for the special needs assistance for seniors benefit program; and
 - 4. Summary of potential opportunities for assisted snow removal programs for Edmonton, as well as an estimate of resource and cost implications.
- **Discussion:** Need to build with snow removal in mind as there are challenges with existing infrastructure. Will these presented programs help address clearing of residential sidewalks? There is a need to create messaging around an education campaign. Complaints about the lack of snow removal at private businesses can be reported to 311. Other jurisdictions looked at social enterprises. Any appetite with council to look into this for Edmonton as federal funding is available for social enterprises. Could the City of Edmonton provide seed money? (example Boyle Street). Will try to get clarification at Council on who is responsible for clearing the openings of alleyways (where they intersect with sidewalks).

8. Old Business

- a. Snow Removal Program - See chair update above.

9. ETSAB -

- a. Recent presentation on the LRT expansion - ETSAB questioned presenters if they would make accessibility updates to existing trains as well? Train types are very different (Valley Line is on ground) and they can't replace existing lines. They did say they will work toward improvements for other LRT systems.
- b. 3 new board members appointed.
- c. The next two topics ETSAB will be working on are relevant for accessibility. Zohra will be working with a small group on ridership improvements and will connect with D. Rudolph on the AAC to continue collecting accessibility concerns. AAC to share areas they would like improvements.

10. Administration/Executive Update

- a. Tabled

11. Other Committee Work

- a. **Policy Review update** - presented by Z.Weeks
Tabled.
- b. **Community Engagement update**
Tabled

12. Round Table

13. AAC Calendar

- a. Assisted Snow Programs - Community and Public Services Committee July 11, 2023

- b. Affordable Housing Strategy - Oct 30, 2023
- c. Co-mingling Paratransit and On Demand Transit - Nov 28, 2023

14. Adjournment at 6:56pm (Reminder: No August meetings)

NEXT MEETING: September 11th, 2023 @ 5:00pm